

REMARKS

The Office Action of January 24, 2007, has been received and reviewed.

Claims 1-69 are currently pending and under consideration in the above-referenced application. Of these, claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-31, 33-37, 39-53, and 55-69 have been considered and stand rejected, while claims 3, 9, 32, 38, and 54 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Reconsideration of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

The Office has acknowledged that the art cited in the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement of May 30, 2001, has not yet been considered in the above-referenced application. For the sake of convenience, copies of the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, Form PTO-1449, and USPTO date-stamped postcard, as originally filed, are enclosed. It is respectfully requested that the art cited in the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement of May 30, 2001, be considered and made of record in the above-referenced application and that an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 that accompanied that Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement be returned to the undersigned attorney as evidence of such consideration.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-31, 33-37, 39-49, 51-53, and 55-69 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for reciting subject matter that is purportedly indefinite. Specifically, it has been asserted that the term “[t]here is no structural limitation as claimed to inform one of ordinary skill in the art [as] to the metes and bounds of a jacket...”

It is respectfully submitted that, when considered in view of the nonlimiting examples provided throughout the specification of the above-referenced application, one of ordinary skill in the art would readily understand the “metes and bounds” of the term “jacket.” In this regard, M.P.E.P. § 2173.01 provides: “[Applicants] can define in the claims what they regard as their invention essentially in whatever terms they choose so long as... any special meaning assigned to a term is clearly set forth in the specification.” *See also*, M.P.E.P. § 2111.01.

Furthermore, the claims themselves provide additional clarity as to the features of the recited jackets. For example, independent claim 1 recites that a “jacket” of a female member includes “an aperture configured to be located over [a] contact pad” and that the aperture is at least partially filled with a conductive center, while “an upper portion of [the] aperture [is] open.”

It is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would readily understand the scope and meaning of the term “jacket” from both the specification of the above-referenced application and from the claims themselves. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that each of claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-31, 33-37, 39-49, 51-53, and 55-69 complies with the definiteness requirement of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Accordingly, the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejections of claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-31, 33-37, 39-49, 51-53, and 55-69 should be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-31, 33-37, 39-53, and 55-69 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

The standard for establishing and maintaining a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is set forth in M.P.E.P. § 706.02(j), which provides:

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on applicant’s disclosure. *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

Subrahmanyam

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-24, 26-31, 33-37, 39-49, 51-53, 55-65, and 67-69 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for reciting subject matter which is allegedly unpatentable over the

subject matter taught in U.S. Patent 5,411,400 to Subrahmanyam et al. (hereinafter “Subrahmanyam”).

Subrahmanyam teaches an assembly in which first and second components are physically coupled and electrically connected to one another by inserts 12 that protrude from one of the components and sockets 14 that protrude from the other component. FIG. 1; col. 3, lines 2-4. the teachings of Subrahmanyam are limited to inserts 12 and sockets 14 that are formed completely from conductive materials, such as metal. Col. 3, lines 50-52; col. 3, line 68, to col. 4, line 2.

As shown in FIGs. 6 and 9 of Subrahmanyam, each insert 12, 41 is a solid structure, including a cylindrical base 32 and a flanged circular head 37. *See also* col. 5, lines 40-41. FIGs. 7 and 9 of Subrahmanyam depict each socket 14, 42 as including a solid pedestal 29 upon which a sectioned ring 34 is disposed, with a flanged head 39 being located on an upper edge of the sectioned ring 34. *See also* col. 5, lines 56-57.

It is respectfully submitted that Subrahmanyam does not teach or suggest an insert 12, 41 that includes “an aperture configured to be located over [a] corresponding contact pad” and “a conductive center substantially filling [the] aperture, as recited in independent claim 1. Rather, as evidenced by the cross-sectional representation provided in FIGs. 6 and 9 of Subrahmanyam, the teachings of Subrahmanyam are limited to inserts 12, 41 with bases 32 and heads 37 that are solid.

In addition, it is respectfully submitted that Subrahmanyam includes no express or inherent description of a female member with “a conductive center partially filling [an] aperture” of a jacket. Rather, the socket 14, 42 of Subrahmanyam includes a sectioned ring 34 that sits upon a pedestal 29. There is no teach or suggestion in Subrahmanyam that the sectioned ring 34 may be at least partially filled with conductive material. *See, e.g.*, FIGs. 7 and 9.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the teachings and suggestions of Subrahmanyam do not support a *prima facie* case of obviousness against the subject matter recited in independent claim 1, as would be required to maintain the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of independent claim 1.

Claims 2, 4-8, and 10-21 are each allowable, among other reasons, for depending directly or indirectly from independent claim 1, which is allowable.

Claim 2 is further allowable because Subrahmanyam does not teach or suggest that the aperture of the socket 14, 42 described therein is “configured to partially limit insertion of [the insert 12, 41] thereinto.” To the contrary, FIGs. 7 and 9 depict the aperture of the socket 14, 42 as including smooth walls that are oriented perpendicular to the underlying pedestal 29.

Claim 5 is further allowable since Subrahmanyam includes no teaching or suggestion that the outer surface of the insert 12, 41 thereof “is configured to partially limit insertion” of the insert 12, 41 into the aperture of the socket 14, 42.

Claim 8 is additionally allowable because Subrahmanyam does not teach or suggest a male member with a jacket having an end portion with a smaller periphery than a base portion of the jacket. Rather, the description of Subrahmanyam is limited to an insert 12, 41 with a circular head 37 that has a smaller periphery at its end than at a base of the circular head 37. Nonetheless, the outer periphery of the end of the circular head 37 appears to be the same size as the outer periphery of the base of the cylindrical base 32 of the insert 12, 41.

Claim 10 is further allowable since Subrahmanyam includes no teaching or suggestion that either the insert 12, 41 or the socket 14, 42 thereof includes a jacket that comprises photopolymer. It is also submitted that, because the teachings of Subrahmanyam are limited to use of conductive materials to form the insert 12, 41 and the socket 14, 42, one of ordinary skill in the art wouldn’t have been motivated to modify teachings from Subrahmanyam in such a way as to render the subject matter recited in claim 10 obvious.

Claim 11 depends from claim 10, and is also allowable since Subrahmanyam provides no teaching or suggestion of an insert 12, 41 or socket 14, 42 with a jacket that comprises a plurality of layers of photopolymer. Nor would one of ordinary skill in the art been motivated to modify the teachings of Subrahmanyam in such a way as to develop a structure with a jacket that includes a plurality of layers of photopolymer.

Claim 17 is additionally allowable because Subrahmanyam does not teach or suggest that either the insert 12, 41 or the socket 14, 42 thereof may include at least partially unconsolidated

conductive material. Rather, the disclosure of Subrahmanyam is limited to conductive structures that comprise fully consolidated features.

Claim 18, which depends from claim 17, is further allowable because Subrahmanyam neither teaches nor suggests that either the insert 12, 41 or the socket 14, 42 thereof may include at least partially uncured conductive resin.

Claim 19, which depends from claim 18, is further allowable since Subrahmanyam does not teach or suggest that either the insert 12, 41 or the socket 14, 42 thereof may include uncured conductive resin.

Claim 20 is also allowable since Subrahmanyam includes no teaching or suggestion of an insert 12, 41 or a socket 14, 42 that includes thermoplastic conductive elastomer.

With respect to the semiconductor device component to which independent claim 22 is directed, it is respectfully submitted that Subrahmanyam lacks any teaching or suggestion of “a first member of a conductive structure . . . including a jacket having an aperture through a length thereof and a conductive center in [the] aperture . . .” Again, it is respectfully submitted that the insert 12, 41 of Subrahmanyam does not include any feature that could be considered to comprise an aperture and that the socket 14, 42 of Subrahmanyam does not include any conductive material within the aperture defined by its sectioned ring 34 and flanged head 39.

As such, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established, as would be required to maintain the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of independent claim 22.

Each of claims 23, 24, 26-31, 33-37, and 39-46 is allowable, among other reasons, for depending directly or indirectly from independent claim 22, which is allowable.

Claim 28 is additionally allowable since Subrahmanyam lacks any teaching or suggestion of a jacket that is configured to contain conductive material over at least one contact pad.

Claim 29 is further allowable because Subrahmanyam does not teach or suggest a member of a conductive structure that includes a conductive center that substantially fills an aperture of a jacket.

Claim 31 is also allowable because Subrahmanyam does not teach or suggest a male member with a jacket having an end portion with a smaller periphery than a base portion of the

jacket. Rather, the description of Subrahmanyam is limited to an insert 12, 41 with a circular head 37 that has a smaller periphery at its end than at a base of the circular head 37. Nonetheless, the outer periphery of the end of the circular head 37 appears to be the same size as the outer periphery of the base of the cylindrical base 32 of the insert 12, 41.

Claim 35 is further allowable since Subrahmanyam does not teach or suggest a member of a conductive structure that includes a conductive center that partially fills an aperture of a jacket.

Claim 40 is additionally allowable because Subrahmanyam does not teach or suggest that either the insert 12, 41 or the socket 14, 42 thereof may include at least partially unconsolidated conductive material. Rather, the disclosure of Subrahmanyam is limited to conductive structures that comprise fully consolidated features.

Claim 41, which depends from claim 40, is further allowable because Subrahmanyam neither teaches nor suggests that either the insert 12, 41 or the socket 14, 42 thereof may include at least partially uncured conductive resin.

Claim 42, which depends from claim 41, is further allowable since Subrahmanyam does not teach or suggest that either the insert 12, 41 or the socket 14, 42 thereof may include uncured conductive resin.

Claim 43 is also allowable since Subrahmanyam includes no teaching or suggestion of an insert 12, 41 or a socket 14, 42 that includes thermoplastic conductive elastomer.

Claim 45 is further allowable since Subrahmanyam includes no teaching or suggestion that either the insert 12, 41 or the socket 14, 42 thereof includes any feature that comprises a photopolymer. It is also submitted that, because the teachings of Subrahmanyam are limited to use of conductive materials to form the insert 12, 41 and the socket 14, 42, one of ordinary skill in the art wouldn't have been motivated to modify teachings from Subrahmanyam in such a way as to render the subject matter recited in claim 45 obvious.

Claim 46 depends from claim 45, and is also allowable since Subrahmanyam provides no teaching or suggestion of an insert 12, 41 or socket 14, 42 with any feature that comprises a plurality of layers of photopolymer. Nor would one of ordinary skill in the art be motivated to modify the teachings of Subrahmanyam in such a way as to develop a feature that includes a plurality of layers of photopolymer.

Independent claim 47 is drawn to a semiconductor device assembly that includes a conductive structure with a first member and a second member. The first member includes a jacket with an aperture therethrough and a conductive center within the aperture. The second conductive member, which is configured to be interconnected with the first member, includes a jacket with an aperture therethrough and a conductive center within the aperture.

Again, it is respectfully submitted Subrahmanyam does not expressly or inherently describe each and every element of independent claim 47. In particular, neither the insert 12, 41 nor the socket 14, 42 of Subrahmanyam includes all of the features of either the first member or the second member of the assembly to which independent claim 47 is directed. More particularly, it is respectfully submitted that the insert 12, 41 of Subrahmanyam lacks an aperture, while the socket 14, 42 of Subrahmanyam does not include “a conductive center” within an aperture defined by the sectioned ring 34 and flanged head 39 thereof.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Subrahmanyam does not teach or suggest each and every element of independent claim 47, as would be required to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Each of claims 48, 49, 51-53, 55-65, and 67-69 is allowable, among other reasons, for depending directly or indirectly from independent claim 47, which is allowable.

Claim 49 is additionally allowable because Subrahmanyam includes no teaching or suggestion of a member of a conductive structure with an aperture that includes an upper portion with a smaller periphery than a base portion of the aperture. Instead, as shown in FIGs. 7 and 9, the upper portion of the periphery of the aperture of the socket 14, 42 is larger than the periphery of the base of the socket’s aperture.

Claim 52 is further allowable because Subrahmanyam neither teaches nor suggests that the aperture of the socket 14, 42 described therein is “configured to limit a distance the [insert 12, 41] is inserted into [the aperture].” To the contrary, FIGs. 7 and 9 depict the aperture of the socket 14, 42 as including smooth walls that are oriented perpendicular to the underlying pedestal 29.

Claim 53 is additionally allowable because Subrahmanyam does not teach or suggest that the insert 12, 41 has an end portion with a smaller periphery than a base portion thereof. Rather, the description of Subrahmanyam is limited to an insert 12, 41 with a circular head 37 that has a smaller periphery at its end than at a base of the circular head 37. Nonetheless, the outer periphery of the end of the circular head 37 appears to be the same size as the outer periphery of the base of the cylindrical base 32 of the insert 12, 41.

Claim 57 is additionally allowable because Subrahmanyam does not teach or suggest that either the insert 12, 41 or the socket 14, 42 thereof may include at least partially unconsolidated conductive material. Rather, the disclosure of Subrahmanyam is limited to conductive structures that comprise fully consolidated features.

Claim 58, which depends from claim 57, is further allowable because Subrahmanyam neither teaches nor suggests that either the insert 12, 41 or the socket 14, 42 thereof may include at least partially uncured conductive resin.

Claim 59, which depends from claim 58, is further allowable since Subrahmanyam does not teach or suggest that either the insert 12, 41 or the socket 14, 42 thereof may include uncured conductive resin.

Claim 60 is also allowable since Subrahmanyam includes no teaching or suggestion of an insert 12, 41 or a socket 14, 42 that includes thermoplastic conductive elastomer.

Claim 62 is further allowable since Subrahmanyam includes no teaching or suggestion that either the insert 12, 41 or the socket 14, 42 thereof includes any feature that comprises a photopolymer. It is also submitted that, because the teachings of Subrahmanyam are limited to use of conductive materials to form the insert 12, 41 and the socket 14, 42, one of ordinary skill in the art wouldn't have been motivated to modify teachings from Subrahmanyam in such a way as to render the subject matter recited in claim 62 obvious.

Claim 63 depends from claim 62, and is also allowable since Subrahmanyam provides no teaching or suggestion of an insert 12, 41 or socket 14, 42 with any feature that comprises a plurality of layers of photopolymer. Nor would one of ordinary skill in the art be motivated to modify the teachings of Subrahmanyam in such a way as to develop a feature that includes a plurality of layers of photopolymer.

Subrahmanyam in View of Abe

Claims 25 and 66 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for being directed to subject matter that is assertedly unpatentable over the teachings of Subrahmanyam, in view of teachings from U.S. Patent 5,646,442 to Abe et al. (hereinafter "Abe").

Claim 25 is allowable, among other reasons, for depending indirectly from independent claim 22, which is allowable.

Claim 66 is allowable, among other reasons, for depending indirectly from independent claim 47, which is allowable.

Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections of claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-31, 33-37, 39-53, and 55-69 is respectfully solicited, as is the allowance of each of these claims.

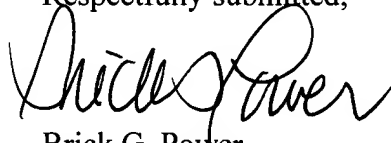
Election of Species Requirement

It is respectfully submitted that each of claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 10-12, 14, 17-31, 35-37, 40-49, 52, 53, and 57-69 remains generic to all of the species of invention that were identified in the Election of Species Requirement in the above-referenced application. In view of the allowability of these claims, claims 3, 9, 32, 38, 50, and 54, which have been withdrawn from consideration, should also be considered and allowed. M.P.E.P. § 806.04(d).

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that each of claims 1-69 is allowable. An early notice of the allowability of each of these claims is respectfully solicited, as is an indication that the above-referenced application has been passed for issuance. If any issues preventing allowance of the above-referenced application remain which might be resolved by way of a telephone conference, the Office is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brick G. Power", written in a cursive style.

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